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JUNE No.54
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PLASTIC MAN, June 1955, No. 54. Published bi-monthly by Comic Magazines, Sparta, Illinois. Executive Offices, 578 Summar Street, Stamford, Conn. Everett M. Arnold, General Manager. Alfred Gruner, Editor. Richard Arnold, Associate Editor. Yearly Subscription (6 issues) $.90. Foreign $1.50. Entered as Second-Class Matter at the Post Office at Wilmington, Delaware, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Application pending at the Post Office at Sparta, Illinois. The characters and events pictured herein are entirely fictitious. The Publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Editorial and Advertising Offices, 347 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. Copyright 1955 by Comic Magazines. Printed in U. S. A.

PLASTIC MAN

NO! NO! HOIST THE ANCHOR! STRIKE THE JIB SAIL! DO ANYTHING BUT GET AWAY FROM THIS PLASTIC POISON!

YOU'RE NOT FEEDING WOOZY TO THE FISH... BUT MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE HIS PLACE ON THEIR MENU!

SMUGGLING IS A PROFITABLE BUSINESS... UNTIL THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW CATCHES UP WITH YOU! AND THE LONGEST ARM OF THE LAW BELONGS TO THAT ACE F.B.I. AGENT, PLASTIC MAN, WHO STRETCHES IT TO THE FULLEST AS HE EXTENDS HIMSELF TO ROOT OUT THE CLEVER CRIMINALS AT SMUGGLER'S HAVEN!

PLAS, THERE'S A BAND OF SMUGGLERS OPERATING SOMEWHERE ALONG THIS COASTLINE AND THE COAST GUARD HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO STOP THEM!

THAT'S AN ENORMOUS STRETCH OF SHORE TO WATCH, CHIEF! I HEAR THAT THE COAST GUARD HAS CALLED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PATROL!

THAT'S WHY I SENT FOR YOU! A MR. VAN VICTOR, A PRIVATE YACHT OWNER, HAS VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST AND I WANT YOU TO GO DOWN TO HIS HOME AND GIVE HIM THESE NECESSARY CREDENTIALS!

I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AWAY AND I'LL TAKE WOOZY ALONG! A TRIP TO THE SHORE WILL DO HIM GOOD!

SOON...

LET'S GO, WOOZY! WE'RE HEADING FOR MR. VAN VICTOR'S PLACE DOWN AT THE SHORE!

YO! HO! IT'S LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE FOR ME!

THIS IS IT! QUITE A SHACK, ISN'T IT?

GEE, PLAS. DO WE HAVE TO GO RIGHT BACK AS SOON AS WE GIVE HIM HIS PAPERS! I COULD LEARN TO BE VERY COMFORTABLE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

HELLO! CHIEF BRANNER PHONED ME THAT YOU WERE COMING! I'M MR. VAN VICTOR AND THIS IS DOTTY, MY SECRETARY!

OH, NOW I KNOW I WOULD BE HAPPY HERE!

COME ON DOWN TO THE PIER AND I'LL SHOW YOU THE YACHT I'M GOING TO USE TO PATROL THE COAST!

IT WAS FATE THAT SENT ME HERE TODAY! IT WAS IN THE CARDS THAT WE SHOULD MEET!

COME, SAIL WITH ME! TOGETHER WE WILL VOYAGE OVER THE SEVEN SEAS...

...OOPS! THERE GOES MY CAP!

I'LL GET IT! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS STRETCH AND...

HALP!

SPLASH!

HALP! I'M DROWNING!

HOLD STILL, WOOZY! WE'LL GET YOU OUT!

I'M NOT A FISH AND I'M NOT A BIRD! PUT ME ON THE GROUND!

OW! NOT SO FAST!

SPLAT

GOSH! MY PANTS ARE RIPPED WIDE OPEN!

HEE! HEE! YOU LOOK SO FUNNY!

WHERE WILL I HIDE? I'VE GOT IT! THAT BUILDING!

NO! NO! STAY OUT OF THAT BUILDING!

DON'T MIND WOOZY! HE'S JUST BASHFUL!

OUT! OUT, I SAID! I DON'T WANT ANY-ONE IN THIS BUILDING!

B-BUT MY PANTS!

I CAN'T HAVE YOU STAY IN THIS BUILDING! IT'S DANGER-OUS...THE, UH, THE FLOORS ARE BEING FIXED AND THE BOARDS ARE LOOSE!

HERE ARE YOUR PAPERS, MR. VAN VICTOR! I THINK IT'S TIME FOR US TO LEAVE!

YES! WE CAN TELL WHEN WE'RE NOT WELCOME!

LATER

YOU KNOW, PLAS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT VAN VICTOR GOT SO EXCITED ABOUT! THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE FLOOR OF THAT HOUSE! ALL I NOTICED WERE PACKING BOXES STACKED UP TO THE CEILING!

I THINK HE GOT A LITTLE TOO EXCITED!

WOOZY, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT HOUSE THAT HE'S TRYING TO HIDE... AND WE'RE GOING BACK THERE TONIGHT TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!

LATE THAT NIGHT...

WE'LL LEAVE THE CAR HERE AND SNEAK ONTO THE GROUNDS!

GEE, IT'S DARK! I H-HOPE THEY D-DON'T HAVE A WATCH DOG!

HERE'S THE PLACE NOW LETS TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THAT WINDOW!

GOSH, IT'S DARK IN THERE!

I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING! WE'LL HAVE TO GO IN ...

SUDDENLY...

THUD!

I TOLD YOU THESE FEDERAL MEN GOT SUSPICIOUS! IT'S A GOOD THING WE WAITED HERE FOR THEM!

UGH! WHAT HIT ME?

WHEN I GET FINISHED WITH THIS ROPE, HIS F.B.I. WILL STAND FOR ***FULLY BOUND INDIVIDUAL!***

HEE! HEE! LOOK AT THE PRETTY STARS!

ALL RIGHT! INSIDE! YOUR NOSINESS IS GOING TO COST YOU YOUR LIVES!

YOU G-MEN AREN'T SO SMART! I'M THE SMUGGLER THE COAST GUARD IS LOOKING FOR BUT I OUTSMARTED THEM BY OFFERING TO PATROL THIS STRETCH AND KEEP THEM AWAY FROM HERE!

AND TOMORROW MORNING, AFTER I GET A DELIVERY I'M EXPECTING, WE'RE GO-ING TO TAKE YOU TWO OUT TO SEA AND FEED YOU TO THE FISH!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT! I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE! DOTTY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SO SWEET!

SAVE THAT STUFF FOR THE MER-MAIDS! SO LONG, SUCKERS!

SO LONG ≡SOB≡ PLAS, OLD PAL! IT'S BEEN ... SAY! HOW COME YOU WERE SUBDUED SO EASILY? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU!

I ONLY PRETENDED TO BE HELPLESS BECAUSE I FIGURED I COULD LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SMUGGLING OPERATION THAT WAY... AND I WAS RIGHT!

WE'LL WAIT HERE TILL MORNING AND WATCH THEM BRING IN THE SHIPMENT! THEN WE'LL CATCH THE WHOLE GANG!

SURE, PLAS WE'LL TAKE THEM ALL ON! THIRTY! FORTY! NO MATTER HOW BIG THE GANG!

EARLY NEXT MORNING...

LET'S SEE HOW THE FUTURE INHABITANTS OF DAVY JONES' LOCKER ARE THIS MORNING!

THEY... *ULP!* THEY'RE GONE!

WE COULDN'T LEAVE SUCH CHARMING HOSPITALITY! TIE THEM UP, WOOZY!

HEY!

HUH?

THIS IS NOT THE SORT OF A KNOT I HAD PLANNED TO TIE WITH YOU! ≡SIGH≡ WE COULD STILL!

AW, SHUT UP!

THERE'S A PERISCOPE OUT THERE! THAT'S WHY THE COAST GUARD DIDN'T SEE THE SMUGGLERS! THEY MAKE THEIR DELIVERIES BY SUBMARINE!

THAT DISCOVERY WILL DO YOU NO GOOD! THE SUB WON'T SURFACE, UNTIL THEY GET THE SIGNAL FROM ME!

I HAVE MY OWN IDEAS OF HOW TO FIX THAT!

I'M GOING TO TAKE A PIECE OF YOUR SHIRT! IT'S JUST THE COLOR I NEED!

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S THE ONLY CLEAN SHIRT I HAVE!

RIP!

I'VE GOT TO BRING THAT SUB TO THE SURFACE BEFORE THEY REALIZE THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG!

WHEN THEY SEE THIS GREEN THEY'LL THINK THEY ARE STILL DEEP UNDER WATER!

...AND INSIDE THE SUBMARINE...

I STILL SEE DEEP GREEN WATER! BRING THE SHIP UP CLOSER TO THE SURFACE!

AYE! AYE!

SOON...

IT WORKED! THE CONNING TOWER IS ABOVE WATER!

THOSE MEN ARE IN FOR A CRASH DIVE THEY NEVER EXPECTED!

OW!
HUH!
YOUR SMUGGLING DAYS ARE OVER!
GET HIM! KNOCK HIM OUT!
POW!
MAN AND BOY I'VE SAILED THE SEA BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN AN OCTUPUS LIKE THIS!
SOCK!
BAM!
THIS MUST BE SOME NEW KIND OF SEA SERPENT!
YOU BOYS MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP NOW!
BANG!
SLAM!
SLAM!
WE'VE GOT HIM! MAKE HIM FAST, NOW!
I'LL TIE HIS LEGS IN A DOUBLE BOWKNOT! HE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF IT!
I'LL SECURE HIS ARMS WITH A HALF HITCH!
GOOD! NOW WE'LL SURFACE AND TAKE HIM TO VAN VICTOR, THE BOSS!
SOON...
AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
ALL RIGHT, BUTTERBALL! WE'RE TAKING OVER!
PLAS! YOU'RE ALL TANGLED UP! WHICH WAY DO YOU GO?
GET US OUT OF THESE ROPES AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO GET RID OF THESE TWO MEDDLERS BEFORE THEY CAUSE US ANY MORE TROUBLE!
AYE, AYE, SIR!

WE'LL TAKE THEM OUT IN THE YACHT AND WHEN WE REACH THE DEEP OCEAN WE'LL TIE WEIGHTS TO THEM AND TOSS THEM OVERBOARD!

NOW I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE TIED UP IN KNOTS! BUT I'M WORKING MY WAY OUT OF IT!

THERE! I'M OUT OF IT!

NOW TO STRETCH MY LEGS AND TAKE THE WRINKLES OUT OF THEM!

AFTER HIM!

THROW THIS TUB OF LARD IN THE BRIG FOR SAFE-KEEPING AND GET AFTER PLASTIC MAN!

LET'S GO, MEN!

FULL SPEED AHEAD! WE'LL GET AWAY FROM THE SHORE SO HE CAN'T JUMP OVERBOARD AND SWIM TO SAFETY!

MEANWHILE IN THE PILOT HOUSE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE STEERING WHEEL! IT WON'T GO THE WAY I TURN IT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING! THE SHIP IS HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE COAST GUARD STATION!

I CAN'T GET THE WHEEL TO TURN!

LET ME AT THIS WHEEL! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO STEER A SHIP!

THIS SHIP IS HEADED FOR THE COAST GUARD STATION AND THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

EEK! PLASTIC MAN!

AS LONG AS YOU CAN CHANGE SHAPE SO EASILY... I'LL FLATTEN YOU!

YOU MISSED HIM, BOSS! BUT I'LL GET HIM!

CRASH!

UGH!

THE ONLY THING YOU'LL GET IS A LUMP ON YOUR NOGGIN'!

CONK!

SINCE YOU SMUGGLERS SHOULD BE USED TO HIDDEN CARGO, LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I'M CARRYING... A PACK OF DYNAMITE IN THIS HAND!

OW!

POW

UGH!

AND A KNOCKOUT PUNCH IN THIS ONE!

SMACK!

SHORTLY AFTER...

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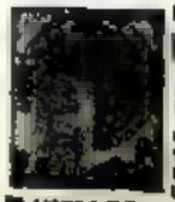

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TOON

YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE ACT! GET DOWN OFF THERE!

:GULP: GOSH! THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE!

JUST THINK WE'RE GOING TO THE CIRCUS AND WE'RE GOING TO SEE ALL THOSE DARING FEATS OF ACTION!

AW, I THINK MOST OF THOSE STUNTS ARE A FAKE!

MY GOODNESS! WHAT ABOUT THE ACROBATS? THEY ARE AWFUL BRAVE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN ACROBAT TO BE BRAVE! NOW TAKE ME FOR INSTANCE...

I THINK YOU'RE A REAL NICE FELLOW, WOOZY, BUT YOU'RE JUST NOT DASHING LIKE AN ACROBAT!

COME ON, LET'S GO IN AND SEE THE SHOW!

TICKETS

NOW THIS IS THE WAY WE'LL DO IT... YOU STEAL HIS HAT AND HE CHASES YOU UP TO THE HIGH WIRE! IT'S A TERRIFIC IDEA! THE AUDIENCE WILL LOVE IT!

BUT I NEVER SAW THE GUY BEFORE! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HIM?

HE'S A SHORT, TUBBY GUY WITH A STRAW HAT! BESIDES HE'LL GIVE YOU A HIGHSIGN!

OKAY! WE'RE READY TO GET STARTED! GET INTO YOUR ACT!

ISN'T THAT CLOWN JUST A HOWL?

HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S COMING OVER HERE TO BOTHER US!

I CAME HERE TO BE ALONE WITH MITZI! MAYBE IF I SIGNAL TO HIM HE'LL GO AWAY!

WHAT ARE YOU WAVING TO HIM FOR, WOOZY? IS HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?

THAT MUST BE THE SIGNAL! HERE I GO!

2

A VERY PECULIAR FRIEND IF YOU ASK ME!

HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

THAT GUY'S A GOOD ACTOR! HE SOUNDED REALLY MAD!

HEY! GIVE ME BACK MY HAT!

NOBODY'S GONNA MAKE A MONKEY OF ME IN FRONT OF MY GIRL!

OH-OH! I WOULD RATHER HAVE SETTLED THIS ON THE GROUND!

IF I GAVE UP NOW, MITZI WOULD THINK I WAS A COWARD!

SO FAR WE'RE DOING FINE! NOW LET'S GIVE THE FOLKS A THRILL FOR THEIR MONEY!

HUH? ALL I WANT IS MY HAT!

THAT'S THE IDEA OF THIS STUNT! YOU'LL GET YOUR HAT BUT YOU'LL GET IT THE HARD WAY! NOW COME AND GRAB FOR IT!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M GONNA DO!

BUT THAT STUNT WAS ONLY A WARM-UP! WE STILL HAVE THE HIGH WIRE ROUTINE!

WE DO? I MEAN.. COUNT ME OUT!

NOW STOP CLOWNING!

TAKE YOUR OWN ADVICE!

OH GOSH!

BRAVO!

BRAVO!

WELL THIS IS MAKING SOMEBODY FEEL GOOD... ONLY I WISH IT WAS ME!

THUD!

YOU'RE NOT THE MAN I HIRED BUT THAT WAS A SPINE-TINGLING PERFORM-ANCE!

IT WASN'T EXACTLY SPINE-TINGLING! IT WAS ALMOST BACK-BREAKING!

GOSH, WOOZY! I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD BE SO BRAVE!

FRANKLY NEITHER DID I?

PLASTIC MAN

MOST PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT A WOLF AT THE DOOR... I'VE GOT A WHOLE PACK OF THEM RIGHT IN MY LAP!

THE GREAT OUTDOORS LURES PLASTIC MAN AND WOOZY AND LIFE AMONG THE HE-MEN SEEMS GREAT UNTIL THEY FIND THEY ARE ALSO FACED WITH **WOLF MEN!** SO IT'S "TIMBER" AS DANGER IS ABOUT TO FALL ON OUR TWO ACE INVESTIGATORS!

I'M GLAD WE DECIDED TO SPEND OUR VACATION HERE, PLAS! YOU KNOW, NORTH WOODS, REAL HE-MAN STUFF!

YES, THIS CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE RUGGED LIVING!

COME ON! I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND THE PLACE!

...AND I OWE MOST OF MY SUCCESS TO WALDO HERE, WHO IS THE FOREMAN OF THE CAMP!

I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT... BUT REMEMBER TO DUCK WHEN YOU HEAR ANYONE CALL "TIMBER"!

LATER---
HUH! THIS WOOD CHOPING ISN'T AS EASY AS I THOUGHT!
MR. ARMSTRONG, I FEEL SURE I'VE SEEN WALDO SOMEWHERE BEFORE BUT I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE!
HE'S BEEN WITH ME FOR A YEAR AND---

EEEOWW!
SOMEBODY'S SCREAMING!
IT'S COMING FROM THERE! LET'S GO!
HELP!

HELP! THE WOLF MEN! THE WOLF MEN! DON'T LET THEM COME BACK!
HE'S BEEN ATTACKED BY THE WOLF MEN!

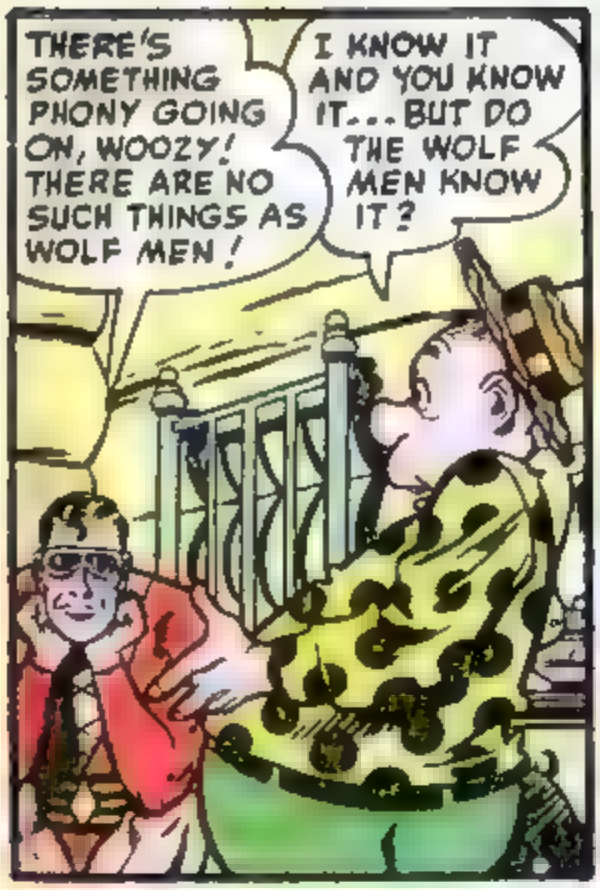
WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS MAN TO A DOCTOR! COME ON! WE'RE GOING BACK TO CAMP!

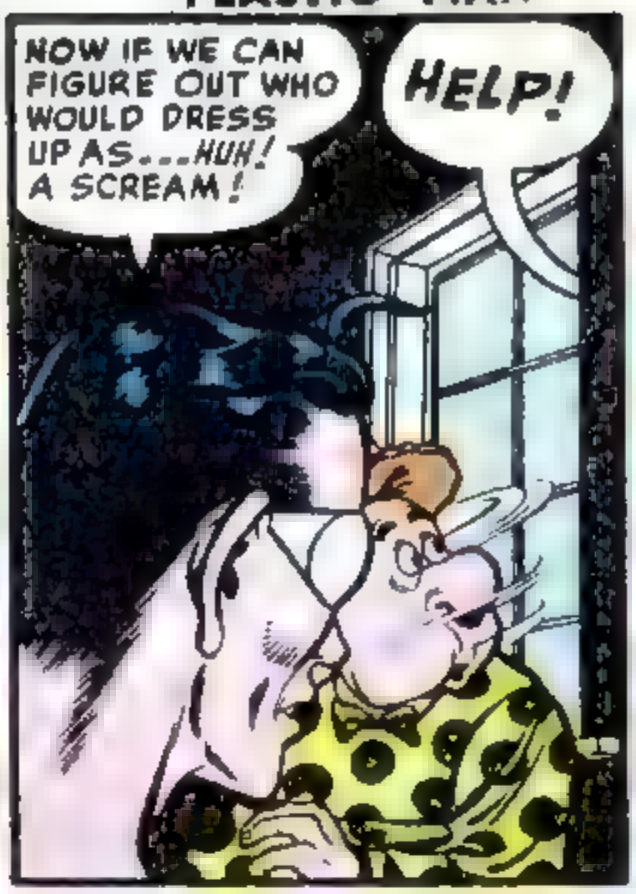
THE DOC SAYS HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! NOW, MR. ARMSTRONG, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT WOLF MEN?
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THEY'VE ATTACKED MY CREW! I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BUT THE VICTIMS DESCRIBE THEM AS WEIRD THINGS WITH MEN'S BODIES BUT THE HEAD AND LIMBS OF A WOLF!
FIRST AID STATION

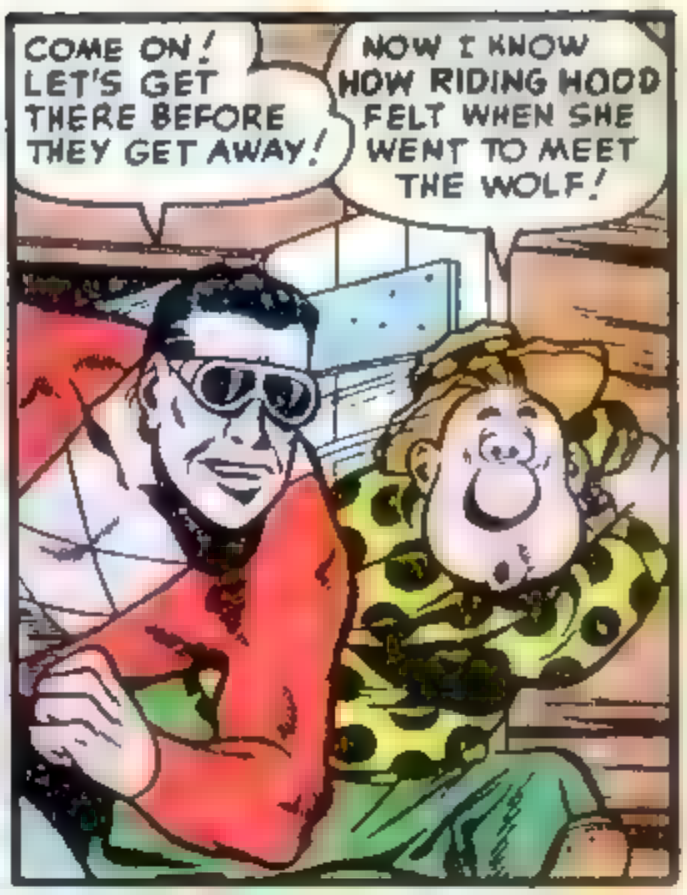
I'M WORRIED! ASIDE FROM HURTING THE MEN IT HAS STARTED RUMORS THAT THE PLACE IS JINXED AND MOST OF MY MEN HAVE THREATENED TO LEAVE!

IT WOULD MEAN BANKRUPTCY FOR ME!
DON'T YOU WORRY, NOW! WOOZY AND I WILL INVESTIGATE!

PLASTIC MAN


THERE'S SOMETHING PHONY GOING ON, WOOZY! THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS WOLF MEN!
I KNOW IT AND YOU KNOW IT... BUT DO THE WOLF MEN KNOW IT?

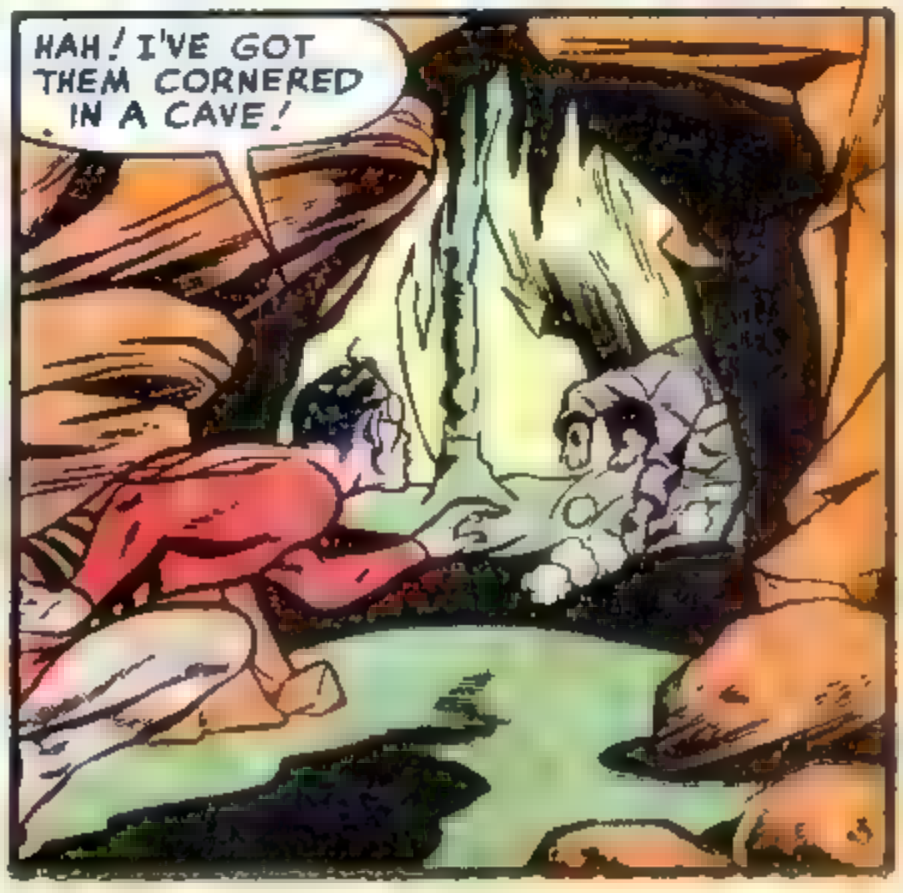

NOW IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHO WOULD DRESS UP AS... HUH! A SCREAM!
HELP!


COME ON! LET'S GET THERE BEFORE THEY GET AWAY!
NOW I KNOW HOW RIDING HOOD FELT WHEN SHE WENT TO MEET THE WOLF!

HELP! THE WOLF MEN!
HOLD ON! HERE I COME!

IT'S PLASTIC MAN!
RUN! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!

WOOZY, YOU TAKE CARE OF THE LUMBERJACK! I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THESE WOLVES TO THEIR LAIR!


HAH! I'VE GOT THEM CORNERED IN A CAVE!

BUT SUDDENLY...

WOLVES! ATTACK!

ATTACK, MY PETS! RIP HIM TO SHREDS!

GROWL!

SNARL!

HUH! THESE WILD BEASTS ARE TOO MUCH FOR ME!

I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY RIP ME TO RUBBER BANDS!

THE NEXT DAY...

WE'RE GOING INTO THIS CAVE AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND TO HELP SOLVE THIS MYSTERY!

G-GOSH, DO WE HAVE TO, PLAS? COULDN'T WE FIGHT SOMETHING NICE AND SIMPLE LIKE GUN-MEN? THESE WOLF MEN GIVE ME A SPOOKY FEELING!

SOON...

HERE'S THE ANSWER! WOLF DISGUISES!

THEN IT'S ONLY MEN WE'RE FIGHTING! HUH, BRING THEM ON!

AND I THINK I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS MASQUERADE FOR I NOW REMEMBER WHERE I SAW WALDO, THE FOREMAN, BEFORE!

I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED WHEN I HEARD THAT WOLF MAN GIVE THE WOLVES THE ORDER TO ATTACK ME! I'VE SEEN WALDO SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE! IT WAS AT THE CIRCUS! HE WAS A GREAT ANIMAL TRAINER!

HUH!

YOU ARE RIGHT! I USED TO BE AN ANIMAL TRAINER!

BUT NOW I WANT TO BE A LUMBER CAMP OWNER!

A FEW MORE ATTACKS BY THE WOLF MEN WILL SCARE OFF ALL THE LUMBERJACKS LEAVING MR. ARMSTRONG READY TO SELL THE PLACE FOR PEANUTS!

YOU MUST BE CRAZY TO HAVE SUCH A PLAN!

IT'S A GOOD ONE AND I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE IT SPOILED BY MEDDLERS... SO NOW FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT I WILL PUT ON MY FAMOUS ANIMAL ACT!

SNARL!

YELP!

GRRR!

THERE'S YOUR TARGET! ATTACK! COME ON, MEN, WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!

YOU RUN TO SAFETY, WOOZY! I'LL HANDLE THIS ALONE!

AFTER HIM! WE CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY AND SPILL OUR SECRET!

I WOULDN'T REALLY MAKE A GOOD MEAL FOR A WOLF BUT THESE ANIMALS WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD IT TO THEM!

BUT I'VE GOT AN IDEA OF HOW TO STOP THEM!

ROARRRR RRRR

THAT WILL KEEP WALDO'S PETS FOR A WHILE!

MEANWHILE...

THE LUMBERJACKS WILL REALLY THINK THE PLACE IS JINXED IF A REAL LUMBER CAMP ACCIDENT SHOULD HAPPEN!

DO YOU HAVE TO USE THIS METHOD? COULDN'T YOU JINX THEM WITH A BLACK CAT OR SOMETHING?

PLASTIC MAN

CUT DOWN THAT TREE SO THAT IT WILL SQUASH HIM!

REALLY, MISTER, YOU SHOULDN'T WASTE LUMBER THIS WAY!

TIMBER!

THAT'S WOOZY IN THE PATH OF THE TREE! I'LL HAVE TO ACT FAST!

IT LOOKS AS IF THIS IS A JOB I'LL HAVE TO SINK MY TEETH INTO!

ZZZZZZ

BUZZZZ

CRASH!

AND NOW TO GET AFTER YOU HUMAN WOLVES!

IT--IT'S PLASTIC MAN!

WHEN I GET FINISHED WITH YOU YOU'LL BE SKUNK MEN NOT WOLF MEN!

OW!

THAT'S DOING IT, PLAS! COME ON, WE'LL SHOW 'EM!

SOCK! POW!

LATER...

...SO THANKS TO YOU, PLASTIC MAN, I WON'T LOSE THE BUSINESS AFTER ALL!

GEE, PLAS, NEXT TIME WE GO FOR A TRIP LET'S JUST STAY IN THE CITY! IT'S SAFER THERE!

PLASTIC MAN

MIDGE THE MIGHTY

WHIFF and Racksey were lightning-swift experts. Efficiently they had entered the office by a window supposed to be burglar proof. Efficiently they coaxed open a safe supposed to be too complex for anyone to crack without the combination. Inside was the money they'd heard was there—great sheafs and packages of bills. Stuffing these into their pockets, they dropped down from the window sill, to the alley below, and stood suddenly quiet, glaring at the little fellow who watched them.

He was a shabby four feet of stature, with projecting ears, a freckled face, and a bundle of school books under his arm.

Whiff put a big hand on the gun inside his coat. "What are you doing here, bub?" he growled.

"Hiding," said the little fellow

"Hiding from what?" snarled Racksel

"The truant officer. I've run off from that school forever"

"Schoolboy, huh?" Whiff felt better. "What's your name?"

"Midge. I was sent from the orphan asylum to that old school, but I ain't going no more. I'm running away."

Racksey had an inspiration. If police searched for safe-robbers, they might overlook two quiet gentlemen accompanied by a child. "How would you like to go with us, Midge?"

The freckled face grimaced, the head shook. "Nope. I'm going to be a pirate, or a cattle rustler or a safe cracker"

That got through to Whiff. "Safe cracker? You want to join a gang of crooks?"

"Sure I do. That's my ambition," said Midge stoutly

"You came to the right place. We're safe-crackers. We belong to a top gang."

"No kidding, Mister?"

"Honest, kid. Look." Whiff flashed a handful of the stolen money. "Stick to us, we'll train you up to be a boss operator."

"Gee! That'd be swell!"

He walked along the street between them, plainly happy. At the next corner, Slippy was waiting in the getaway car.

"Who's that punk kid?" demanded Slippy. "Get rid of him."

"No, he'll be useful," demurred Racksey. "Into the car, Midge."

They drove along side streets and around business centers to the edge of town, to the quiet, respectable-seeming house which no policeman could possibly think was a nest of daring and successful criminals. Once inside, they reported to Craley, the enigmatic and gentlemanly master mind. He checked the packages of bills, and nodded cool approval. But when he heard of Midge, he frowned.

"That was a fool thing to do," he said. "Ringing a kid in here. He'll spill to the first cop he sees."

"He's on the lam, too," explained Whiff. "Ran away from school. And look, Boss, he's a smart little apple. Don't forget, we got to train up new members of the gang."

"Send him in," ordered Craley, and Whiff obeyed. Midge stood before Craley's desk, quiet and hopeful. Craley studied him with wise eyes.

"So," said Craley, "you want to get into the racket, huh?"

"Sure do, Mister. I can be useful. I can carry messages, throw cops off the trail, run errands, work codes—"

"Codes?" repeated Craley. "Can you figure this one?"

He laid a piece of paper before Midge. "This," said Craley, "is a code our gang uses, and no cop has ever worked it. If you can learn the key and rush secret messages to our pals in other places, you'll be plenty of use to us."

"Thanks," said Midge, in a grownup voice. He snatched the paper. "That's what I came for."

"Give that code back, kid!" Craley yelled, and grabbed for Midge. The little fellow stood on tip-toe and knocked Craley kicking. The noise brought Whiff in—a twist and tripping kick, and Midge flung him across Craley's body. Then came a thundering attack on the door, and the police rushed in.

"We followed your signals from the car, Midge," said the sergeant in command, as they rounded up the frightened crooks.

"And here," said Midge, "is the code we need to trace their other gangs." He helped Craley stand up again. "Get that fake money back from Whiff and Racksey. We can bait more traps with it."

"Who's this kid?" spluttered Craley. "How old is the little squirt?"

"Twenty-eight," replied the sergeant. "He's Midge Pulham, the smallest detective on the force. Used to be the strong man with a midget troupe in the circus. Now that I've told you, we'll have to lock you up quick. Midge is going to play runaway schoolboy to catch plenty more criminals."

PLASTIC MAN

YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME, PLASTIC MAN! I HAVE AN INVENTION TO TAKE CARE OF ANY SITUATION!

WHEN I CATCH YOU, DR. QUOMQUAT, YOU'LL HAVE TO INVENT SOMETHING TO GET OUT OF A STRAIT JACKET!

DR. QUOMQUAT IS THE WORLD'S FOREMOST INVENTOR! WHO SAYS SO? WHY HE DOES, NATURALLY! BUT WHEN PLASTIC MAN CROSSES HIM IN ONE OF HIS GREAT EXPERIMENTS IT'S A SCIENTIFIC WHIZ BANG FIGHT TO THE FINISH IN WHICH PLAS IS THE WHIZ, AND THE DOCTOR GETS THE BANG!

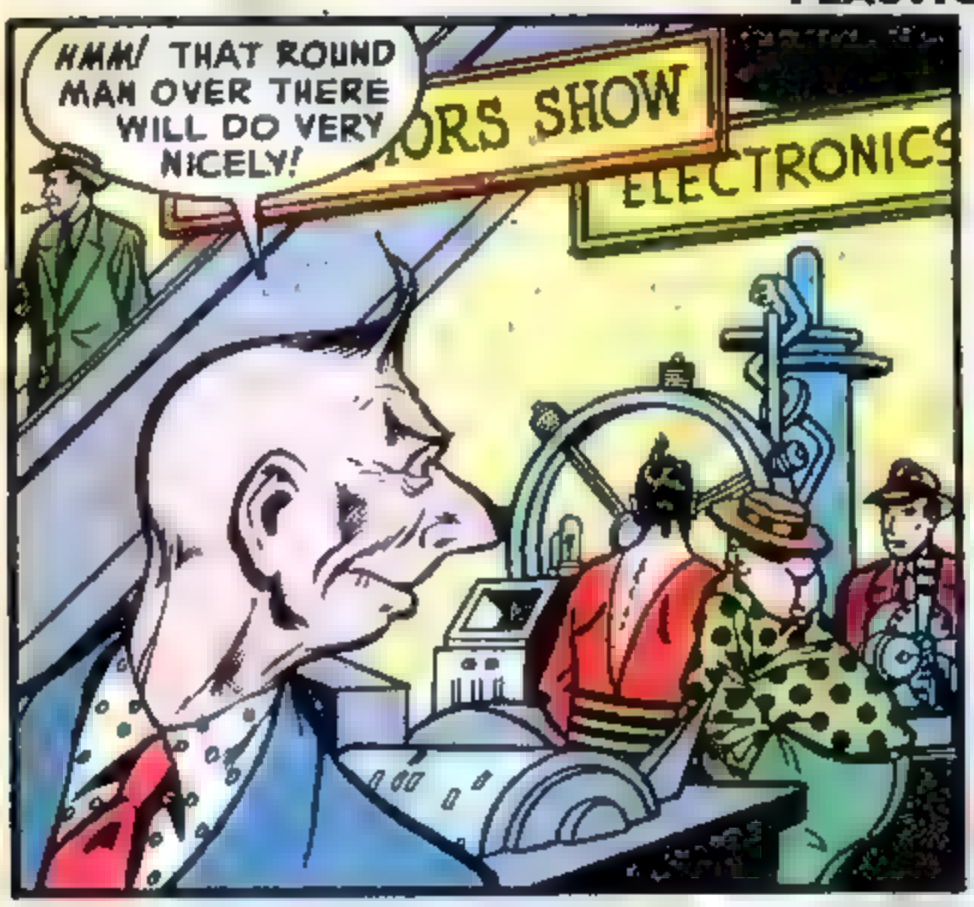
WOOZY, I SEE WHERE THE INVENTOR'S SHOW OPENS IN TOWN TODAY! WE OUGHT TO GO SEE IT!

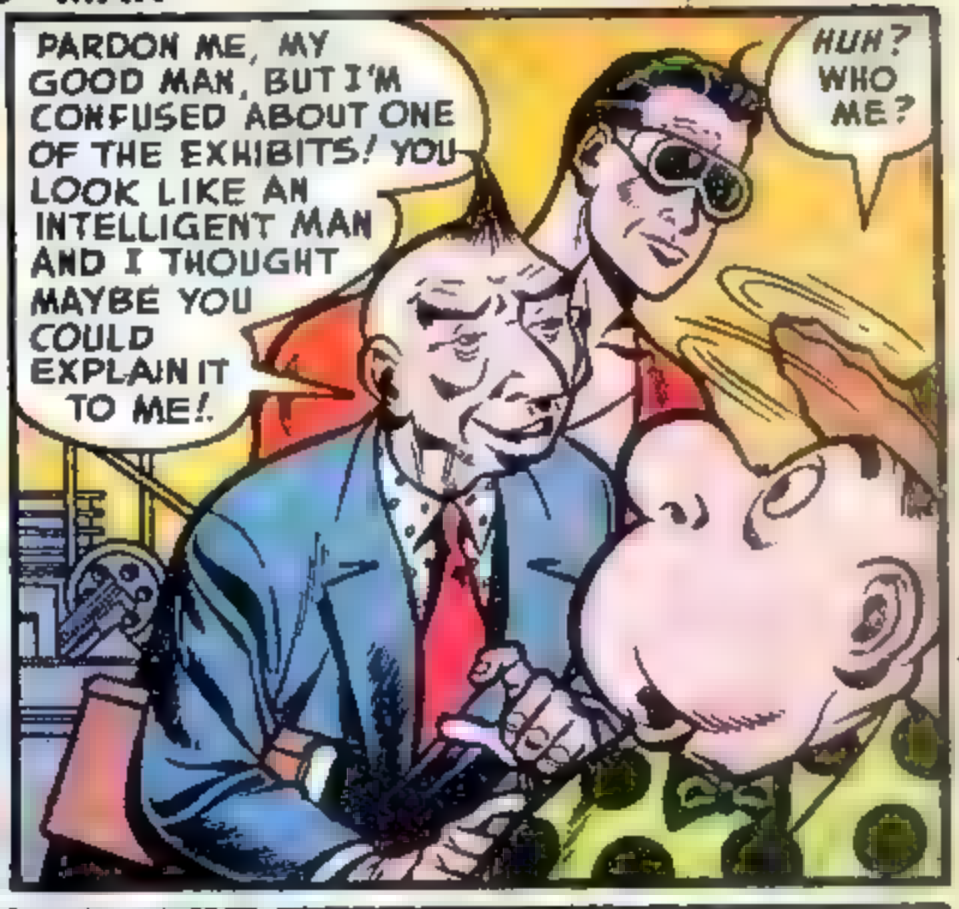
I CAN'T! I'M TOO BUSY!

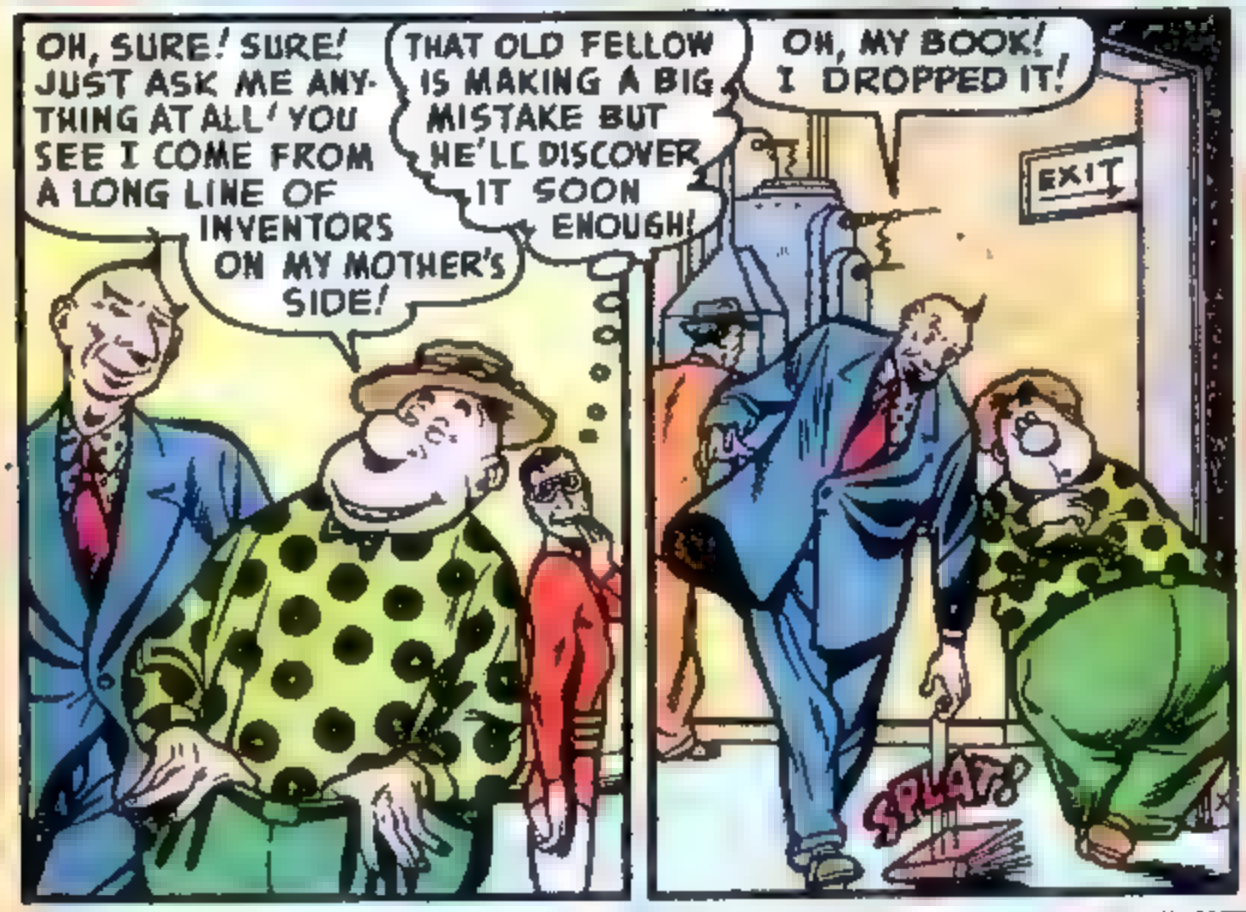
STOP COMPLAINING! A LITTLE SCIENTIFIC AWARENESS WILL DO YOU GOOD!

INVENTOR'S SHOW! *BAH!* IT'S A WASTE OF TIME FOR TWO SUCH HIGH POWERED CRIME FIGHTERS AS US!

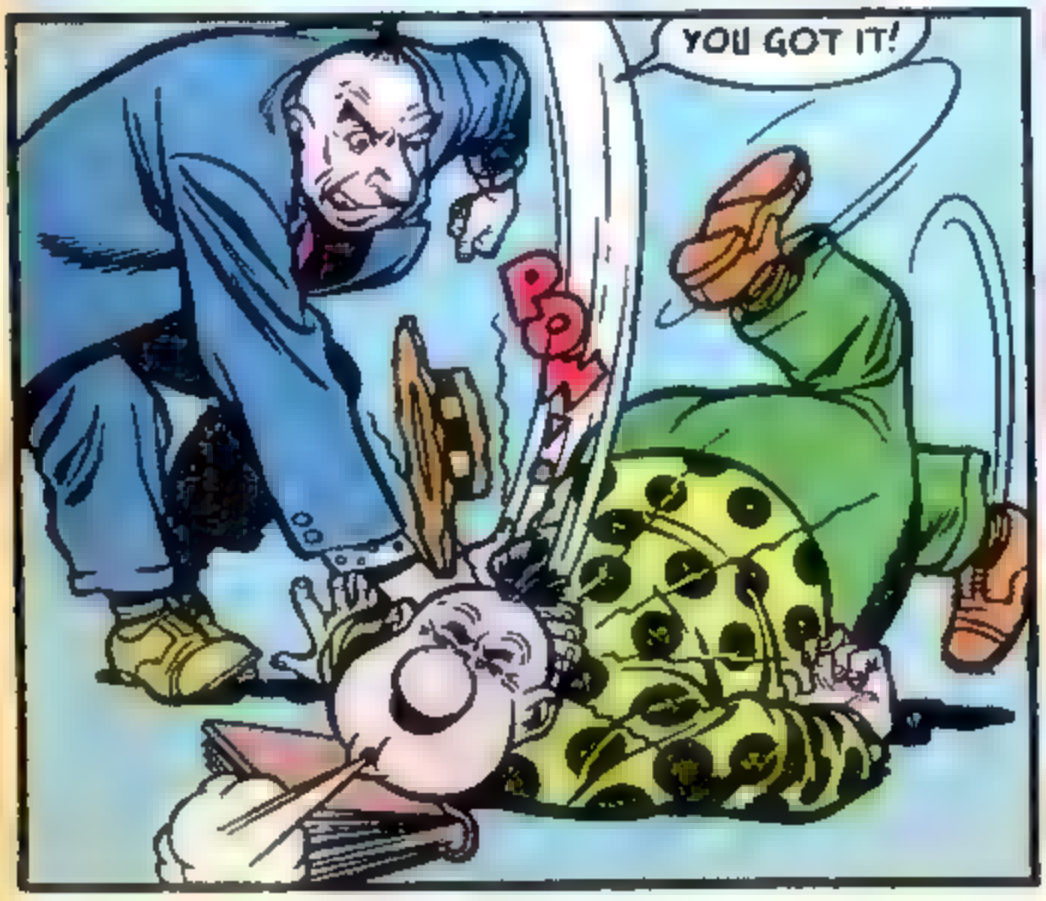
INVENTOR'S SHOW

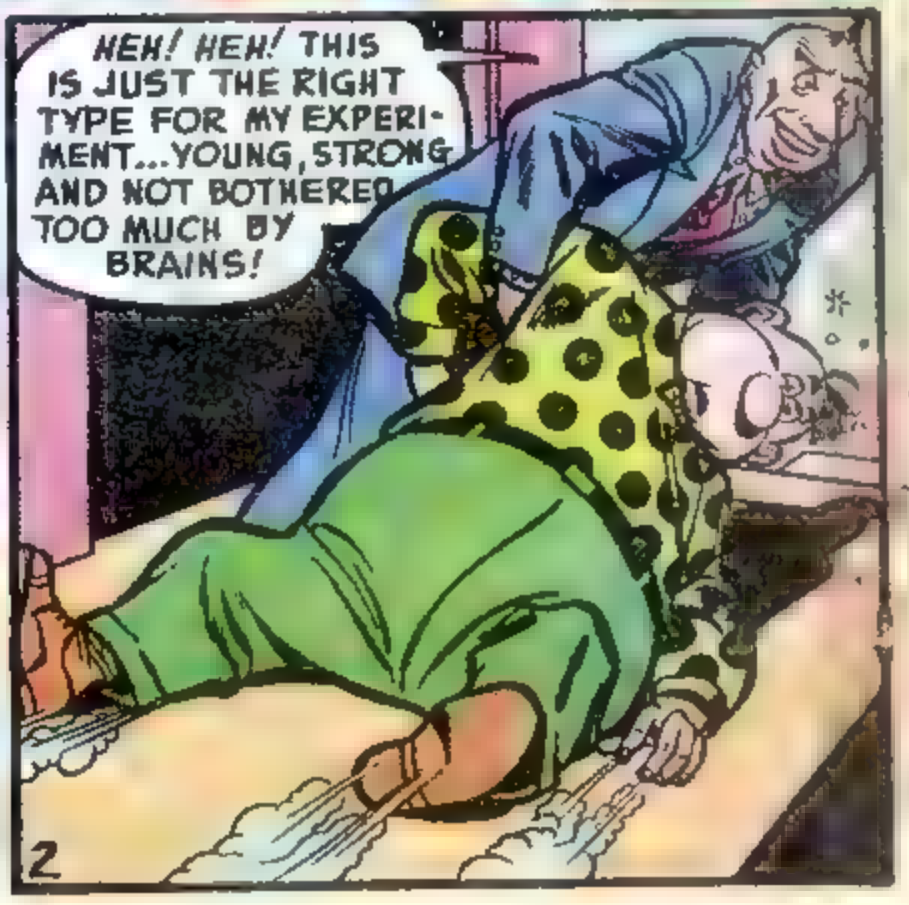

HMM! THAT ROUND MAN OVER THERE WILL DO VERY NICELY!
ELECTRONICS


PARDON ME, MY GOOD MAN, BUT I'M CONFUSED ABOUT ONE OF THE EXHIBITS! YOU LOOK LIKE AN INTELLIGENT MAN AND I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD EXPLAIN IT TO ME!
HUH? WHO ME?


OH, SURE! SURE! JUST ASK ME ANYTHING AT ALL! YOU SEE I COME FROM A LONG LINE OF INVENTORS ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE!
THAT OLD FELLOW IS MAKING A BIG MISTAKE BUT HE'LL DISCOVER IT SOON ENOUGH!
OH, MY BOOK! I DROPPED IT!
EXIT
SPLAT!

WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO PICK UP THE BOOK, YOUNG MAN? MY BACK...
OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I'LL GET IT!


YOU GOT IT!
POW


HEH! HEH! THIS IS JUST THE RIGHT TYPE FOR MY EXPERIMENT...YOUNG, STRONG AND NOT BOTHERED TOO MUCH BY BRAINS!
2

LATER...

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?

YOUNG MAN, YOU ARE INDEED FORTUNATE! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN A VERY IMPORTANT EXPERIMENT!

I AM DR QUOMQUAT, WORLD FAMOUS SCIENTIST AND INVENTOR, AND I HAVE HIT ON SOMETHING BIG! I AM GOING TO PROVE THAT MAN CAN LIVE WITHOUT FOOD ...JUST BY BREATHING VITAMIN FILLED AIR!

ER... MY EXPERIMENTS DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL WITH ANIMALS AND BIRDS BUT MAYBE IT WILL WITH A STRONG HUMAN BEING!

I DON'T WANT TO BE AN EXPERIMENT! I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

SILLY BOY! THINK OF THE GREAT HONOR YOU WILL HAVE WHEN MY INVENTION IS PERFECTED!

NOW YOU JUST RELAX! I'LL SET THE MACHINE TO BLOW VITAMINS INTO HERE AT REGULAR INTERVALS AND...

I SAY LET ME OUT! MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE FOOLING AROUND WITH! I'M WOOZY WINKS, THE ACE CRIME ...

OW! MY SHINS!

SOCK!

NOW YOU STAY HERE AND YOU WILL BE ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE EXHIBIT! THERE ARE MANY INVENTIONS THERE THAT I WANT TO STUDY!

I'M DOOMED! —SOB— DOOMED!

BACK AT THE INVENTOR'S SHOW...

RADIO DEPT

THERE'S THAT FELLOW WITH WHOM WOOZY WALKED AWAY... BUT WOOZY'S NOT WITH HIM!

I'D BETTER FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO WOOZY! HE CAN GET IN TROUBLE IN A PLACE WITH SO MANY GOOFY INVENTIONS!

MISTER, WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FRIEND WOOZY? YOU KNOW, THE PLUMP FELLOW IN THE GREEN SHIRT YOU WERE TALKING TO...

I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR! I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO ANSWERS TO SUCH A DESCRIPTION!

NOW I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG! I SAW YOU WALK OUT OF HERE WITH HIM! TELL ME WHERE HE IS OR I'LL...

HEY! COME BACK!

DETACHABLE LAPELS! I INVENTED THEM MYSELF! I-KNEW THEY'D COME IN HANDY SOME-TIME!

I COULD CATCH HIM AND SWEAT OUT THE IN-FORMATION BUT MAYBE I'D DO BETTER TO TRAIL THE GUY AND LET HIM LEAD ME TO WOOZY!

THAT BIG GUY IS STILL FOLLOWING ME! I'LL DUCK DOWN HERE AND SHAKE HIM!

HE'S STILL AFTER ME! I'LL GET ON THIS TROLLEY CAR AND LOSE HIM!

CITY TRANSIT

THERE HE IS! FOR AN OLD MAN HE CERTAINLY MOVES FAST!

SOON...

AT LAST! I'VE LOST HIM!

NOW I CAN LEISURELY STROLL TO MY LABORATORY AND CONTINUE MY EXPERIMENT!

KEEP GOING! I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

BARBER

SHORTLY AFTER...

HUH! I DIDN'T SHAKE HIM!

NO YOU DIDN'T AND I'LL SHAKE THE DAY-LIGHTS OUT OF YOU IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO...

WOOZY!

PLAS! GET ME OUT OF HERE!

NO MEDDLER IS GOING TO RUIN MY EXPERIMENT!

BZZZZ

ANOTHER ONE OF MY INVENTIONS! YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME!

THIS MAN MUST BE OUT OF HIS HEAD! I'VE GOT TO GET WOOZY AND GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM FROM USING ANY MORE OF HIS INVENTIONS ON ME!

FOILED! BUT I'M NOT THROUGH YET!

IF I HIT YOU ONCE MORE YOU WILL BE THROUGH! NOW BE A NICE GUY AND OPEN WOOZY'S CAGE!

YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME! NOW TRY ANOTHER OF MY INVENTIONS!

CRASH

AND JUST IN CASE YOU DON'T SMOTHER TO DEATH MY SHOOTING INVENTION WILL FINISH YOU OFF!

TAT TAT TAT TAT

KAT-TAT

TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT

PLEASE, DOC, DON'T SHOOT UP PLAS! I'LL BE YOUR EXPERIMENT... ONLY STOP SHOOTING THOSE SHELLS!

THERE! THAT SHOULD FINISH HIM! *HUH!* WHAT'S THIS... A PECULIAR LOOKING PEBBLE!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THIS COLOR... AND WHAT'S THIS? IT'S SENDING OUT TENDRILS!

THIS IS AMAZING! I AM INDEED A GREAT SCIENTIST! I HAVE DISCOVERED A STONE THAT GROWS!

HUH! WHAT'S THIS? I CAN'T MOVE!

THIS IS ONE OF MY INVENTIONS, DOC! HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

PLAS! YOU'RE SAFE!

COME ON, WOOZY, YOU'RE FREE NOW! WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THIS MAD GENIUS TO THE LUNATIC ASYLUM WHERE HE BELONGS!

SURE, PLAS, COME ON! I'LL FEEL SAFER IN THE LOONEY BIN THAN AT THAT INVENTOR'S SHOW!

How I Made a Small Fortune In Spare Time!

(WITHOUT SPENDING A PENNY)

The TRUE STORY of William Bergstrom of Illinois

No, but maybe BETTER! I'm a Mason Shoe Man in off hours. You should see how people buy these shoes! Look-, real AIR CUSHION innersoles!
GOSH! Can I make money that way?

Jim told me Mason sends a Selling Outfit FREE and shows how to make MONEY. So I mailed a coupon. My wife was thrilled:
Bill! Look... a real air cushion innersole that customers can feel!
And look at this! Over 175 different styles! Dress shoes, sport shoes, work shoes... from width AAAA to EEEE

I started with friends, relatives, people where I worked. EVERYBODY wants comfortable shoes!
Just feel that cushion, Joe! Wouldn't you like to "Walk on Air" all day long?
Say, I'd like those shoes. You sure have swell styles... my right size, too!

Soon the Mason people sent me actual sample shoes, and sales came faster than ever!
Say, you have a larger selection than a store!
Stores can't carry all the sizes and widths to fit every foot right. Mason has 200,000 pairs on hand, so I'm never out of a style, size or width!

My spare-time business grew by leaps and bounds. It was a cinch getting repeat orders!
Hello, Mr. Jones. It's been 2 months since I've called on you
Come in, Mr. Bergstrom. Time I was getting another pair of Mason shoes.
My wife needs a pair, too!
Never had a shoe fit so well!

I soon had a business that brought me over $3,000 EXTRA a year, plus exciting prizes. I found real security
Bill! a new toaster!
Didn't cost a cent! Mason gave it to me. They give away thousands of prizes every year. I've really made a small fortune!

Mail Coupon For *YOUR* FREE Money-Making Outfit!

What would YOU do with $3,000 EXTRA income a year? Thousands of men are making handsome **extra incomes** with Mason Shoe. You don't invest one cent...ever. You need no experience. We'll send you a complete Starting Outfit FREE! It features handsome line of over 175 styles in smart dress shoes, sporty casuals and fast-selling work shoes...and includes 10-second Air Cushion demonstrator, Measuring equipment, Money-making booklet, National ads...EVERYTHING you need to start making **big money** from your first hour!

If you want to give yourself a **raise** every month—with a steady-profit repeat-order business...if you want to be **your own boss**...just rush this coupon TODAY to Mason Shoe Mfg. Co., Dept. MA602, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. You'll receive your powerful *FREE* SALES OUTFIT *right away!*

Mr. Ned Mason, Dept. MA602
Mason Shoe Mfg. Co.
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

You bet I want to start making a small fortune in spare time! Rush my FREE SELLING OUTFIT with everything I need to start making money my first hour!

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GUARANTEED

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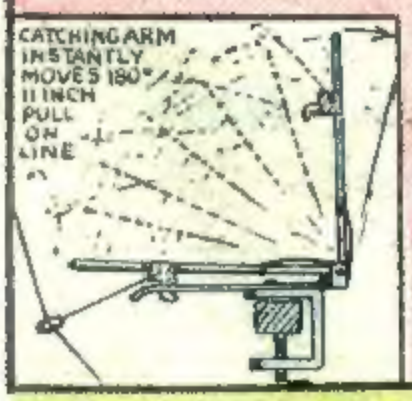
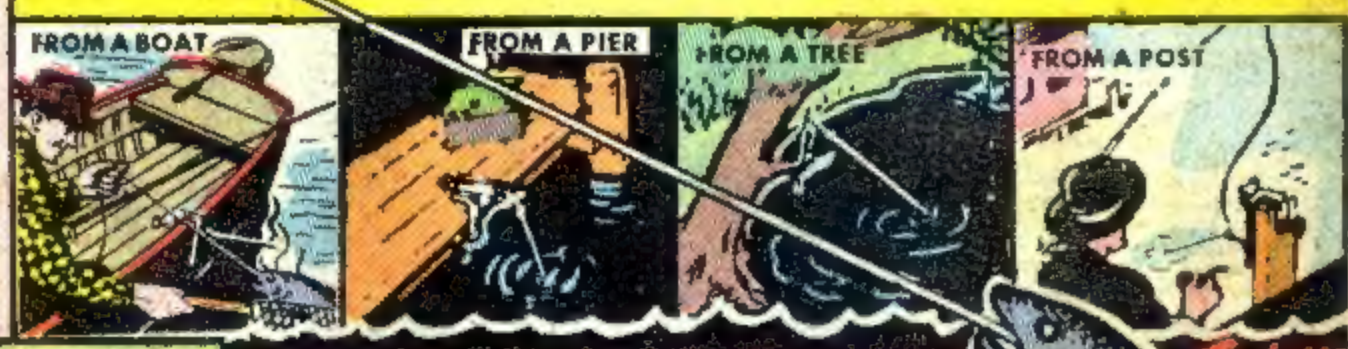
The instant fish bites, trigger releases automatically which sets hook in mouth of fish. At the same time, catching arm flies up to make catch secure.





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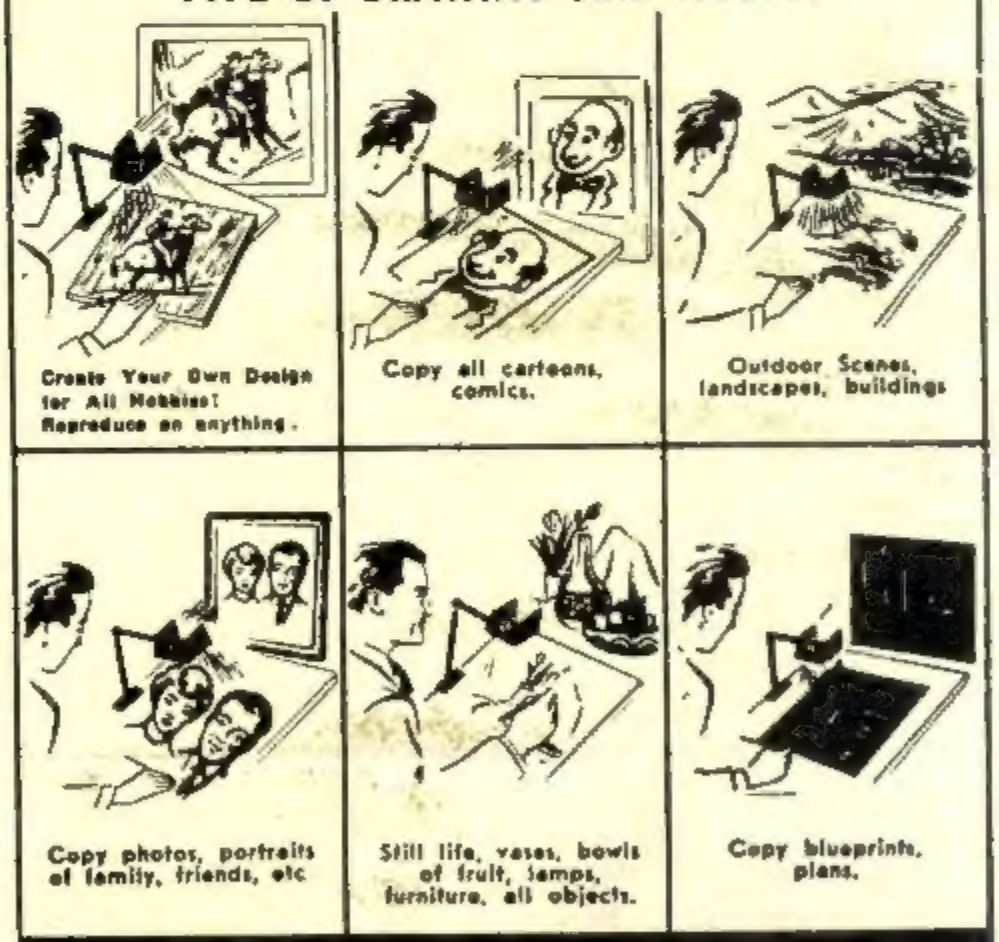

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DEAN STUDIOS, DEPT. X-402
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